

MINUTES
of the
34th Annual Session
of the
Primitive Baptist Association
Convened with
Oak Grove Church,
Surry County, N. C.

October 24th and 25th, 1902.

MODERATOR: ELD. ELI SEBASTIAN.
Lomax, N. C.

CLERK AND TREAS: G. W. MILES.
Miles, N. C.

The next session will convene with Center Church, 7 miles North of Wilkesboro, N. C., on Friday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1903. Eld. Eli Sebastian to preach the Introductory Sermon, N. W. Herrald, Alternate.

Star Print, Sparta, N. C.

Churches and Roll of Delegates.

BETHANY—J. O. Wood, Daniel Wood. N. W. Herald and C. L. Cheek.

BETHEL—D. S. Elledge.

CANE CREEK—Represented by Letter.

CENTER—F. M. Adams.

ELKIN VALLEY—C. A. Cooper.

FAIR VIEW—J. C. Hall.

FRIENDSHIP—J. M. Gentry, W. A. Gentry and J. H. Norton.

GARDEN CREEK—M. F. Brown.

LIBERTY KNOB—G. W. Miles, H. A. Wood and John Wood.

OAK GROVE—W. F. Gregory, E. F. Kane, Abram Ayers, Henry Cook and B. A. Freeman.

OAK LEVEL—C. Waddell, J. P. Cocherham.

PLEASANT GROVE—Not represented.

RACHEL—R. Wilmoth, John Crabb and J. W. Byrd.

ROARING RIVER—Represented by Letter.

ROUND HILL—J. A. Pruitt, M. F. Richardson, Sam Hank and N. Waddell.

ROUND MOUNTAIN—Not represented.

WHITE OAK—F. W. Norman, F. M. Walker.

ZION—Eli Sebastian, E. M. Herald.

Proceedings.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1902.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Session of the Primitive Baptist Association convened with Oak Grove Church October 24, and 25, 1902.

Introductory services: Song, "Am I a Soldier of The Cross &c."

Prayer offered by Elder A. McKnight. Sermon by Elder J. O. Wood; text, Matthew 15:13.

After a short intermission, the delegates reassembled in the church. Opening services: Song, "Brethren we have met again &c." Prayer offered by Elder M. E. Pool. Called for Associational Letters—sixteen were handed in and read.

1 Appointed M. E. Pool, J. H. Stuart and S. P. Todd tellers, who reported Eld. Eli Sebastian, Moderator and Geo. W. Miles, Secretary.

2 On motion, invited newly constituted churches of our faith and order to unite with us

3 On motion, invited correspondents of our faith and order, when Bro J. H. Stuart from the Mountain Union Association, Elders A. McKnight, M. E. Pool and Bros. G. W. Ramey, A. F. Gentry, S. P. Todd, Chas. Doby and James Vernon from the Little River accepted seats.

4 Invited transients and visitors of same faith and order. None present.

5 On motion, authorized the Moderator to make all temporary appointments during this session.

6 Appointed J. M. Gentry, N. Waddell, and Daniel Wood with the delegates of Oak Grove church committee on Ministry, who reported for to night: Devotional exercises by S. P. Todd. Sermon by M. E. Pool. For

to-morrow: devotional exercises, S. P. Todd. 1st Sermon, N. W. Herrald; 2nd Sermon, A. McKnight.

7 Appointed W. F. Gregory, J. O. Wood, F. M. Adams, F. W. Norman Committee of Arrangements, and invited the Moderator, Secretary and correspondents to sit with them.

8 Appointed J. A. Pruitt, J. P. Cockerham and D. S. Elledge Committee on Finance.

9 Appointed R. Wilmoth, F. M. Walker and Abram Ayers Committee on Sabbath Schools.

10 Appointed N. W. Herrald, G. W. Miles and M. F. Richardson Committee on Resolutions.

11 Appointed B. A. Freeman, F. M. Adams and J. H. Norton Committee on Temperance.

12 Appointed J. M. Gentry to write a Corresponding Letter to the Mountain Union Association; W. A. Gentry to the Little River and Abram Ayers to the Blue Ridge and have these letters ready for inspection to-morrow.

13 Appointed the Clerks of the churches in our bounds Committee on Obituaries.

14 On motion, adjourned until to-morrow 9 o'clock a. m. Song: "Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove, &c," Prayer offered by N. W. Herrald. Benediction by the moderator.

SECOND DAY SATURDAY, OCT. 25TH, 1902.

Met pursuant to adjournment of yesterday and spent half an hour in devotional exercises. Opening services: Song, "Oh for a closer walk with God, &c." Prayer by the Moderator.

1 Called roll of delegates and marked absentees.

2 Called on Committee of Arrangements to report, who reported and were discharged.

3 Read Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith.

4 Extended an invitation to transients and visitors of our faith and order, when Thomas. Higgins, A. T. Simcox and J. W. Davis from the Little River Association accepted seats with us.

5 On motion read and received the minutes of yesterday.

6 Called on Committee on Sabbath Schools to report, who reported, viz:

"We believe it is the duty of the churches of our union to organize and carry on Sunday Schools in their respective churches, teaching the word of God in its pure light. As Christ entered into the Synagogues on the Sabbath days and taught the people, so should the churches,

F. M. WALKER, }
ABRAM AYERS } Committee,
R. WILMOTH, }

Report received and committee discharged.

7 Called on corresponding brethren to report:

Eli Sebastian and J. P. Cocherham visited the Mountain Union Association; J. P. Cockerham, W. F. Gregory, Abram Ayers, M. F. Brown and John Crabb visited the Little River.

Report received and brethren discharged.

8 Called on the brethren appointed to write corresponding letters to read them; letters read and received and brethren discharged.

9 Appointed correspondents to sister Associations, viz: To the Little River, W. F. Gregory, Noah Waddell, F. M. Walker, M. F. Brown, Abram Ayers, B. A. Freeman, J. M. Gentry, W. A. Gentry, J. O. Wood and D. Wood. To the Mountain Union, W. F. Gregory, E. F. Kane and J. P. Cocherham. To the Blue Ridge, E. F. Kane, J. O. Wood and J. C. Hall.

10 On motion, the Treasurer of last year reported, viz:

Received of the Committee on Finance	\$21 35
Paid out as follows:	
To the Moderator	\$4 00
To Eli Sebastian	1 50
To W. F. Gregory	1 50
To J. P. Cocherham	50
To J. A. Roberson	50
Mailing Manuscript	09
Mailing Corresponding Letters	24
My own fee	4 00
Returned to Finance Committee	1 02

Total \$21 35

Report received.

11 Called on the Committee on Temperance to report, who reported as follows:

"We believe it is the duty of all Christians to abstain from the great evils of Intemperance, referring you to the Prophet Isaiah, 5: 11 to 14 verses.

We advise all the churches in our bounds to strictly deal with all members according to God's word who should be violaters of the same.

B. A. FREEMAN, }
F. M. ADAMS. } Committee
J. H. NORTON. }

Report received and committee discharged.

12 Called on Committee on Finance to report, who reported:

Received from the churches	\$15 10
From Treasurer of last year	1 02
Total	\$16 12

Report received and committee discharged.

13 Called on the Committee on the Ministry to report, who reported for to-night;

First sermon by Elder Frank Simmons. 2nd sermon by Eld. Eli Sebastian. For to-morrow, Devotional exercises by S. P. Todd.

First Sormon by Elder M. E. Pool. 2nd sermon by Elder A. McKnight.

Report received and committee discharged.

14 On motion, appointed F. M. Adams, G. W. Miles and B. A. Freeman to visit Round Mt. Church and J. O. Wood and D. S. Elledge to visit Pleasant Grove Church and learn the cause of their non-representation at this session,

15 The Committee on Resolutions reported as follows:

Resolved, 1st "That we solicit each minister in our bounds to make at least one visit, to all the churches in this Association during the associational year. 2nd That we extend to our sister Associations our many thanks for their continued line of correspondents and visitors sent us. 3rd. That we return our sincere thanks to the brethren, and sisters and beuevolent yeomanry of this vicinity for their generous hospitality shown us during this session."

Report received and committee discharged.

16 Called for obituaries to be printed in the minutes, when five were handed in, read and ordered published.

17 Appointed a Union Meeting to be held at Round Hill church on the fifth Saturday and Sunday in Nov. 1902; Elds. A. McKnight and M. E. Pool to attend, all the ministers in our association are cordially invited to be present.

18 On motion, we ask Eld. W. F. Gregory, who was appointed last year to travel and preach, to report; he reported to have met with fair results and flattening prospects for the future: therefore, we again say to this Brother "go and tell poor sinners of Christ and his love, labor for the promotion of christianity and the salvation of souls."

19 Appointed G. W. Miles, Treasurer, and that he superintend the printing of 700 copies of these minutes and allow him \$4.00 for his services.

20 Authorized the Treasurer to hand to our moderator the residue of minute funds after the printing of minutes, mailing expenses; and his fees are paid.

21 Treasurer's report for the session of 1902,
 Received of the Committee on Finance \$16 12
 Paid out as follows:
 For printing minutes \$10 00
 To the Moderator 2 12
 My own fees 4 00

Total \$16 12

22 Appointed our next session to convene with Center church, 7 miles north of North Wilkesboro, N. C., commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in October 1903. Elder Eli Sebastian to preach the Introductory Sermon and N. W. Herrald, Alternate.

23 On motion, order our Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith spread upon these minutes.

24 Read and received the minute of to-day.

25 Adjourned to time and place of our next session. Song: "Did Christ o'er sinners weep, &c." Prayer offered by Eld J. O. Wood. Benediction by the Moderator.

Eld. Eli Sebastian, Mod.,
 George W. Miles, Secretary
 SABBATH.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Bro. S. P.

Todd. 1st Sermon by Eld. M. E. Pool. Text: St. Mark 5: 19. 2nd Sermon by Eld. A. McKnight, Text: Acts 16: 30.

May the gospel truths, which were spoken this day, be means of awakening the minds of poor sinners and be food to the Christians. Brethren and sisters pray for the upbuilding of the Primitive Asssociation and for a revival of heartfelt religion throughout our land, Amen.

CLERK.

OBITUARY.

Newton G. Kennedy was born Feb. 3rd, 1851, and died Aug. 22, 1902. He was married to Phoeby Hali, Oct. 2nd, 1873. Unto them were born nine children; eight are now living. He joined the Baptist Church at Roaring River Aug. 27, 1894, where his membership remained until death.

My beloved wife and dear children too,
I lived, and loved to live with you,
My love for Jesus was a stronger tie,
At His command, I could not help but die.

James Sparks was born about the year 1829, and departed this life May 5, 1902. He was married to Charlotte Dickerson in the year 1850. God blessed this union with three children. He joined the Baptist church at Roaring River on the fourth Saturday in Sept. 1888, where he remained until the summons of death came. He loved to fill his seat at church. He talked Religion, he lived Religion.

A soldier of Jesus is just murdered out,
Of this poor world of sorrow, sickness and pain,
And is gone home up higher to sing and to shout,
All you who serve Jesus will see him again.

John Wood was born about the year 1822 and died March 2nd, 1902. He joined the Baptist church at White Plain on Sat Nov. 21, 1846, but afterward moved his membership to Bethany church. He was married to Elizabeth Lyon Sept. 17, 1846. God blessed this union with three children all of whom are yet living. He was a gentle father, a noble husband, a kind neighbor, and a devoted christian. On the day of his demise, he stepped from the shores of time to the lands across the dark river.

A precious one from us is gone,
A voice we loved is still,
A place is vacant in our home,
Which n-er can be filled.

Susan Higgins, wife of Sitas Higgins, departed this life May 5, 1902. She joined Center Baptist church on the first Sunday in April, 1887 and lived a consistent member of the same till death.

She leaves a husband, children, relatives and friends to mourn.
May all of these dear ones be ready to die when the sad summons
shall come.

Young friends, when my grave you pass by,
Think as you are now, so once was I.
Though hale, prond or sinful you be
You're soon going to eternity.

Susanah Jennings was born September 22, 1829 and died Sept. 1, 1902. She was the mother of three children, two are living while one is in the Spirit world. In her girl-hood days, she fore-saw the uncertainty of life and the surety of death, and by repentance joined the Pilgrim band that were traveling to the Holy Land. While the vicissitudes of life came to her as they do to us all yet with her delight, (the bible) in hand and the spirit to direct, she kept plodding her way through a world of sorrow to a world of bliss.

Farewell my husband and sons too
This day all troubles with me shall end,
To-moorow's sun, I shall not see,
My soul will be in eternity.

CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1. This Association shall be known by the name of Primitive Baptist Association, and shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union and duly sent to represent in the Association: who on producing letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to their seats. Each church shall be entitled to five delegates. In their letters is to be expressed their number in full fellowship, baptized, received by letter, by application and good recommendation, dismissed by letter, excluded, and dead since the last association.

2 The number thus chosen and convened shall have no power to Lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe any internal right over any church in her union.

3 The Association when convened shall be governed by a regular decorum.

4 The association shall have a Mederator and Secretary, who shall be chosen annually, by a majority of the votes of the members present, a majority of the churches being represented.

5 New churches or any regular Baptist church of Jesus Christ of our Faith and Order in good standing either dismissed by letter from Sister Associations, or by application and good recommendation, by sending up letter and delegates shall be admitted into the union.

6 Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

7 Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

8 The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of its proceedings, the best method for accomplishing this purpose shall be at the discretion of the future Association.

9 We think it necessary to have an Association fund to defray the expenses of the Association, and it is the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums as they think proper to the Association, and those moneys shall be deposited in the hands of a Treasurer who shall be accountable to the Association for the same and the Association shall appropriate the money thus contributed to any purpose they may think proper.

10 There shall be an association book wherein the proceedings of the Association shall be recorded by a Secretary appointed by the Association, who shall receive a reasonable compensation for his services.

11 The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

12 Amendment to this form of Government may be made at any time by a majority of the Association, when they may deem it expedient by giving the churches twelve months notice.

13 The Association shall act as an advisory council and shall endeavor to preserve a general union of the churches, and also preserve a chain of communion among the churches and give advice in matters of difficulty.

14 The Association shall inquire into the causes if any church fails to represent at any time in the Association.

15 The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in her union that shall violate the rules of this Constitution or deviate from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

16 The Association may correspond with Sister Associations and invite any brother in the ministry in good standing or that can bring a good recommendation of his standing, who may be of our faith and order to a seat in the Association, who may be present at the time of its sitting.

17 The Association shall have power to adjourn to any future time or place it may think proper.

18 The benevolent institutions of the day shall be no bar nor test to fellowship, but all shall be free to sustain or not sustain the same as they may choose

Rules Of Decorum.

1 This Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2 Only one person shall speak at the same time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to make his speech.

3 The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any, except the Moderator, until he is done speaking.

4 He shall strictly adhere to his subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who speaks before, by making remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the matter as nearly as he can, so as to convey his light or idea.

5 No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the Association, without liberty obtained from the body, for his absence.

6 No person shall speak more than three times on one subject, without liberty obtained from the Association.

7 No member of the Association shall have liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in the time of public speech.

8 No member of the Association shall address another by any other appellation than that of Brother.

9 The Moderator shall not interrupt any member, nor prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light on the subject, except he violates the Rules of Decorum.

10 The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Secretary and called over as often as the Association requires.

11 The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but he shall not vote unless the association be equally divided, then he may give the casting vote.

12 Any member who shall wilfully and knowingly break any of these rules shall be approved by the Association as shall be deemed proper.

Articles of Faith.

1 We believe in one only true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one

2 We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of Faith and Practice

3 We believe in the doctrine of Election by Grace.

4 We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin, and in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will and ability.

5 We believe that sinners are called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and all who are thus regenerated and born again by the Spirit of God, shall never fall finally away.

6 We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

7 We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of those ordinances, and we believe the only true mode of Baptism is by immersion.

8 We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

9 We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except such as are regularly called, and come under the imposition of hands by the Presbytery.

Statistical Table,

